

duce it under absolute subjection and thereby make it instrument for attempts on Britain itself, or to sever it from Britain, so that it might not be a weight in the Whig scale. This latter alternative, however, was not considered as the one that would take place. They knew so little of America that they thought it unable to encounter the little finger of Great Britain. (From Answers to the Queries of M. Soules, written in Paris, 1776. F. IV., 307.)

RHODE ISLAND.—How happens it that Rhode Island is opposed to every useful proposition? Her geography accounts for it, with the aid of one or two observations. The cultivators of the earth are the most virtuous citizens, and possess most of the *amor patriae*. Merchants are the least virtuous, and possess the least of the *amor patriae*. The latter reside principally in the seaport towns, the former in the interior country. Now it happened that of the territory constituting Rhode Island and Connecticut, the part containing the seaports was erected into a State by itself and called Rhode Island, and that containing the interior country was erected into another State called Connecticut. For though it has a little seacoast, there are no good ports in it. Hence, it happens that there is scarcely one merchant in the whole State of Connecticut, while there is not a single man in Rhode Island who is not a merchant of some sort. (From Answers to Questions Propounded by M. de Meusnier, 1786. F. IV., 144.)

RICE.—I find in fact that but a small portion of the rice consumed here is from the American market, but the consumption of this article here is immense. If the makers of American rice would endeavor to adapt the preparation of it to the taste of this country so as to give it over the Mediterranean rice the advantage of which it seems susceptible, it would very much increase the quantity, for which they may find sale. (To John. Jay, written in Paris, 1786. F. IV., 237.)

RIGHTS.—Our legislators are not sufficiently apprised of the rightful limits of their power; that their true office is to declare and enforce only our natural rights and duties, and to take none of them from us. No man has a natural right to commit